



ECHO Summaries, Week of Dec. 21-23, 2020

As a reminder, the opinions of the HUB team members and presenters are their own and do not necessarily represent those of UAA, CHD, DHSS, or any ECHO sponsors.

For recordings and notes: [ECHO AK Public Health COVID-19 Response](https://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/echo.aspx)

Vaccine Media Pop-Up ECHO Overview, Monday, 12/21/20

Synopsis: Discussion was focused on the vaccine's arrival and plan for distribution:

- At this time, there's no thought that temperature related issues with the vaccines are the reason for the adverse reactions. (Zink)
- As vaccination numbers increase statewide, the state will begin to report vaccine numbers administered in each community. (Walker-Linderman)
- We had a failed shipment to Ketchikan. When the shipment arrived, it was too warm. We shipped another shipment to Ketchikan, so they still received a viable vaccine. 20 doses were lost. (Bobo)
- Vaccines are being distributed by plane, boat, four-wheelers and snowmachines. Whatever is needed, we're doing it. (Pistotnik)

Science ECHO Overview, Wednesday, 12/23/20

Synopsis: This week's science ECHO focused on adverse reactions, efficacy of the vaccine, and new upcoming vaccine details. Important things highlighted during the Q&A were:

- Positivity rate is back below 5% for the first time since October. It peaked at over 9% in November. (McLaughlin)
- At this time, travel orders remain the same and getting the vaccine doesn't change those requirements. (Fisher)
- State public health labs have good turnaround times at the moment. (Parker)
- It's legal for employers to require the vaccine under certain circumstances. (McLaughlin)
- History of anaphylaxis will require a 30-minute observation period instead of 15 minutes.

- The AstraZeneca is a virus-factored vaccine, different than the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. (Ohlsen)

Links:

[Alaska Sequencing Information](#)

[UK Variant Information](#)

[Summary of COVID and Blood Type Research](#)

[Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the US](#)

[Implications of the Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variant](#)

[Alaska Allocation Committee](#)

[ADN Article: Employers Requiring Vaccination](#)

[Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#)

[CDC Update on the UK Variant](#)

[V-Safe](#)

Vaccine ECHO Overview, Wednesday, 12/23/20

Synopsis: This ECHO was focused heavily on the efficacy and makeup of the vaccines:

- Individuals should plan to get their second dose at the same location as their first, as states are in different phases and the second dose will be sent to the same location. (Zink)
- There are no cells or anything made from animals or humans in the ingredients of the vaccine. (Ohlsen)
- The vaccine is not made from human embryonic cells. (Zink)
- We don't know how long you are protected from the virus once vaccinated but anticipate that information to come out as the third phase of trials are completed. (Zink)
- We're recommending that people get their second vaccine dose in the recommended window because that's what was tested and shown effective. (Ohlsen)

Links:

[Direct Link to Comment Opportunity](#)

[Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)

[V-Safe](#)

[Communications Toolkit](#)

[Brief on Emerging Variant](#)